

# Private Calendar No. 733.

61ST CONGRESS, } 3d Session.	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.	Report C. S. NO. 1961, LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES JAN 27 1911 Abs. No. 35327
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## RECOGNITION OF ROBERT E. PEARY, THE ARCTIC EXPLORER.

JANUARY 21, 1911.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BATES, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany S. 6104.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs having had under consideration bills S. 6104 (Hale), H. R. 21495 (Bates), H. R. 20984 (Butler), H. R. 21431 (Loud), H. R. 19971 (Allen), and H. R. 29511 (Alexander), and H. J. Res. 144 (Moore), all of which bills and joint resolution propose certain recognition of Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, for his Arctic explorations resulting in reaching the North Pole, report the said Senate bill 6104 with recommendation that it do pass with amendments.

Said bill is amended as follows:

Strike out the title and insert: "Providing for the promotion of Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, and tendering to him the thanks of Congress."

Also, in said Senate bill strike out all after the enacting clause and insert as follows:

SECTION 1. That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to place Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, on the retired list of the Corps of Civil Engineers with the rank of rear admiral, to date from April sixth, nineteen hundred and nine, with the highest retired pay of that grade under existing law.

SEC. 2. That the thanks of Congress be, and the same are hereby, tendered to Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, for his arctic explorations resulting in reaching the North Pole.

Robert E. Peary reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. From a camp which he established at a point estimated by observation at 89° 56' north latitude on said date (slightly over 4 miles from the exact pole), he made two excursions on that and the following day, which carried him close to and beyond the pole.

Your committee have come to the above conclusion after a careful examination and hearing by the subcommittee extending over several days at which Capt. Peary appeared in person, and gave important testimony submitting all his papers, original data, daily journal kept

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# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

## **International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008**

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by him during the journey and notes of astronomical observations and soundings, etc.

Your committee also heard the report of the National Geographic Society, of Washington, the report from the president and one of the board of governors of the Royal Geographical Society, of London, which society through its official computer had made an independent examination of the data and proofs; and also a report from Hugh C. Mitchell and C. R. Duvall, expert computers of astronomical observations from the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States. These men independently of any other person, working on the original data of the observations taken by Peary, stated before your committee that on the above-named dates Peary passed within a little over a mile of the exact pole and stated in conclusion that the march of April 7, 1909, may have carried Peary even within a stone's throw of that point.

These reports of the American and British societies and of Messrs. Mitchell and Duvall of our own Coast and Geodetic Survey are submitted in full in the printed report of the hearings had before your committee. These hearings established the fact that Peary reached the North Pole on the above-named date in pursuance of a well-defined and carefully laid plan which he had been able to formulate as the result of more than 20 years' Arctic experience and which he was able to carry out because of an indefatigable earnestness and singleness of purpose.

As a result of this plan, when he reached out over the Arctic Sea, as had been done by other explorers—Nansen, Cagni, Greely, Lockwood, Markham, and others—and came to a point beyond where they had turned back, and beyond where he himself in former excursions had been obliged to retreat, he was able, by reason of his supporting parties, to go forward with sledges filled with provisions and fresh dogs for locomotion, these very essentials of success having been conserved for his final dash.

Three years before, in 1906, Peary had reached  $87^{\circ} 6'$ , the farthest north ever attained up to that time. He then learned the necessity of more careful preparation, and, returning to the United States, planned a campaign by ship, men, Esquimos, dogs, canned provisions, lighter equipment to the very last detail, which resulted in success.

Peary was an officer of the United States Navy and charged with the specific duty in which he was engaged. President Roosevelt, July 3, 1908, detailed Peary to report to the Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and instructed that Peary be ordered to make tidal observations along the Grant Land and Greenland shore of the Polar Sea.

Mr. Peary entered the Navy in 1881 and has served almost thirty years. He is at present a civil engineer with the rank of captain. When leaving for his polar trip, the Acting Secretary of the Navy wrote him that he was granted this leave of absence for Arctic explorations because he is believed to be better equipped than any other person in the country to undertake such work.

You have—

Said the letter from the Navy Department—

the requisite courage, fortitude, and physique; you have had a longer term of service within the Arctic Circle than any other explorer, and you have had large experience in sledge journeying on the land and upon the polar pack; you have demonstrated

your ability to maintain yourself in that latitude for a longer period in health and safety than any other explorer; you have reduced the inconveniences and hardships of the Arctic service to the minimum. The attainment of the pole should be your main object. Nothing short will suffice. Our national pride is involved in the undertaking. This department expects that you will accomplish your purpose and bring further distinction to a service of illustrious traditions.

The President of the United States gave Peary this parting injunction:

I believe in you, Peary, and I believe in your success if it is in the possibility of man.

Going into winter quarters at Cape Sheridan, tidal observations were commenced, and the members of the expedition began the transportation of supplies westward to Cape Columbia. This became a camp and depot of supplies, from which the journey over the Arctic Ocean to the pole was to begin. The winter months of 1909 were occupied in preparing Eskimos, dogs, and other equipments. After careful training the Eskimos and dogs were in the best condition, hard and fit for the work that was before them. - The men, Eskimos, and dogs were divided into supporting parties. Each supporting party was independent in the matter of supplies and equipment; they were sent north over the ice at intervals of a day or more each.

In this way the first supporting party sought and found the easiest trail which could readily be found by the succeeding parties coming on.

Capt. Bartlett accompanied Peary to latitude  $87^{\circ} 47'$ , or within 133 miles of the pole. At this point they exchanged signed statements as result of observations, and Bartlett turned back with his supporting party, leaving Peary with picked dogs, good sledges, and plenty of provisions, and in fact the very best equipment and supplies for the final journey. In five marches from where Peary and Bartlett parted, Peary reached the long sought for goal. Mr. Mitchell, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, makes a conclusive and careful report on the observations of Marvin, Bartlett, and Peary. He and Mr. Duvall agree that the observations taken by Peary at Camp Jesup were latitude  $89^{\circ} 55' 23''$ , longitude  $137^{\circ}$  west, and that this place, Camp Jesup, is indicated to be 4.6 geographic miles from the North Pole. But this was not his closest approach to the pole. Mr. Mitchell states that the result of observations at 6.40 o'clock on the morning of the 7th, and of Peary's travel immediately after those observations in the direction of the sun an estimated distance of 8 miles, indicate that Peary was at a probable distance of 1.6 miles from the pole.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Duvall figured the position of Peary at the pole independently, but based on the same observations and by independent methods. Their calculations agree within a second of latitude.

Mitchell states that from his professional experience it would have been impossible for the data of these observations to have been obtained other than under the circumstances claimed. The observations at the pole were made at different times. He states that in using these observations in connection with each other they, in a measure, prove each other, and that error could be detected had the observations not been made at the points set forth in the data. In other words, the two independent observations taken on the 6th and 7th, with the sun in the same direction, practically agree upon comparison.

On the return of the Peary party to the United States the standard chronometer used by Peary was sent to its makers for rating and

comparison. When this instrument was examined before the expedition started the previous year, it was found to have a predicted daily rate of 0.2 of a second losing. On the return a comparison showed the instrument to have a daily rate of 2.2 seconds gaining. This correction and comparison in chronometer rate showed, according to Mr. Mitchell, that Peary's time was 10 minutes fast on his expedition to the pole and that the sun, instead of being observed on the assumed meridian (70), was observed 10 minutes before it had reached that meridian. One effect of this was in the assumed direction of the sun, it being really  $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  east of south when it was assumed to be due south. This error of chronometer carried Peary to the left instead of in a direct line with the pole. This is shown from his observations at Camp Jesup, where two altitudes of the sun, taken 6 hours apart, gave an absolute determination of both the latitude and longitude of that point and showed that the forward line of march was between 4 and 5 geographic miles to the left of the pole. This very error proves the truth of his position and the correctness of his observation, based upon his own chronometer. Had his chronometer been exactly correct, Camp Jesup would have been in direct line with the pole, as he had supposed from his own observations, and the forward march would have brought him exactly over its location. His detour to the right, however, on the following day brought him within 1.6 miles of the exact center, which is substantially the goal he sought.

It is a well-recognized fact that exact results are not attainable as a result of observations. A matter of 1 or 2 miles under favorable circumstances is a fair allowance. Dr. Nathaniel Bowditch, in the *American Practical Navigator*, an official publication of the United States Navy Department, states:

In obtaining results of observations it is impossible to make an exact allowance for error in chronometer and sextant and error of refraction and of observation. No navigator should ever assume that his position is not liable to be in error to some extent, the precise amount depending on various factors, such as the age of the chronometer rate, the quality of the various instruments, the reliability of the observer, and the conditions at the time the sight was taken. Perhaps a fair allowance for this possible error under favorable circumstances will be 2 miles; therefore instead of plotting a position upon the chart and proceeding with absolute confidence in the belief that the ship's position is on the exact point, one may describe, around the point as a center, a circle whose radius is 2 miles (if we accept that as the value of the possible error) and shape the future courses with the knowledge that the ship's position may be anywhere within the circle.

The return journey was made more quickly than the outward journey. There was a trail easily distinguishable and both men and dogs realized that they were returning to land.

Peary covered 27 outward marches (413 miles) in 16 return marches with the pick of Eskimos and dogs all in good condition,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

MacMillan, of the first supporting party, covered 7 outward marches (82 miles) in 4 return marches,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

Borup, of the second supporting party, covered 12 outward marches (136 miles) in 7 return marches with partially crippled men and poor dogs,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

Bartlett, of the fourth supporting party, covered 22 outward marches (280 miles) in 13 return marches,  $21\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

Bartlett returned from his farthest,  $87^{\circ} 47'$ , in the same number of marches (13) as Peary did from that same point.

Later in the season MacMillan and Borup, returning from Cape Jesup with the same dogs used on the northern trip, covered 275 to 300 miles in 8 marches and on more than one occasion covered over 50 miles in a march.

Shackleton, on his outward journey, made marches of 18 and 20 miles. He returned without dogs, and he and his men, dragging their own sledges, made marches of 20, 26, and 29 miles.

Your committee recognize that the attainment of the North Pole has been the object of the world's famous explorers for centuries past; that Peary, overcoming almost insurmountable obstacles, reached the goal of a life's work, that he was specifically commissioned to do so by his commanders in chief, the President and the Secretary of the Navy.

Discoveries of this kind have always been recognized by the country to whom the explorer belonged. Shackleton, who reached a point within a hundred miles of the South Pole in 1909, was granted £20,000 by the British Government and knighted by the King. William E. Parry, in 1827, reached 82° 45' (the record of the farthest north), and was knighted by the King. Sir John Franklin, for explorations of the Arctic coast, was knighted, as were also John Ross in 1835, James Ross in 1844, Robert McClure in 1853, McClintock in 1855, and Nares in 1877.

Peary has at present the rank of captain. Had he remained at home and served as a chief of one of the bureaus at the Navy Department he would to-day have the rank of rear admiral. It is proposed in this bill to bestow upon him this rank with the retired pay of that grade; such retired pay, the committee learns from the Navy Department, will be \$300 per year less than the pay he is now receiving from salary and allowances under his present rank.

Peary has already received the following recognition for his discoveries:

- The special great gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society, of London.
- The special great gold medal of the National Geographic Society, of Washington.
- The special great gold medal of the Philadelphia Geographical Society.
- The Helen Culver medal of the Chicago Geographical Society.
- The honorary degree of doctor of laws from Bowdoin College.
- Honorary member of the New York Chamber of Commerce.
- Honorary member of the Pennsylvania Society.
- The Nachtigall gold medal of the Imperial German Geographical Society.
- The King Humbert gold medal of the Royal Italian Geographical Society.
- The Hauer medal of the Imperial Austrian Geographical Society.
- The gold medal of the Hungarian Geographical Society.
- The gold medal of the Royal Belgian Geographical Society.
- The gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society of Antwerp.
- A special trophy from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society—a replica in silver of the ships used by Hudson, Baffin, and Davis.
- The honorary degree of doctor of laws from the Edinburgh University.
- Honorary membership in the Manchester Geographical Society.
- Honorary membership in the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society of Amsterdam.

The President of the United States and the Secretary of the Navy have recommended that fitting recognition by Congress be accorded Peary for this great achievement. The scientific societies of the world accord in pronouncing this the greatest geographical prize of the last three centuries. It is a matter of just pride that this honor has come to the United States.

Your committee believe that in view of his long distinguished service in the Arctic regions in ascertaining the northern boundaries of Greenland; his soundings and tidal observations; his ascertainment of facts concerning the northern Arctic Ocean; the general information he has obtained by living over 12 years within the Arctic circle; and finally having successfully followed a carefully laid plan resulting in his reaching on April 6, 1909, and bringing back to civilization the conditions existing at the North Pole, that Robert Edwin Peary has performed a most remarkable and wonderful service, that he has attracted the favorable attention of the civilized world; and that *therefore the American people, through its Congress, shall render him thanks, and bestow upon him the highest rank of the service which he adorns.*

## VIEW OF THE MINORITY.

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In view of the criticism upon Congress upon the part of a certain section of the public press because of its so-called tardiness in taking some action looking toward a reward for Capt. Peary for his attempt for the North Pole it seems proper that a full statement of all the circumstances leading up to the final action of the Naval Committee should be incorporated into the majority report of that committee accompanying the bill reported by it, conferring certain honors upon Capt. Peary.

To this end a brief review of the polar controversy up to the time it reached Congress is necessary to a full understanding of the action of certain members of the House Committee on Naval Affairs.

When Dr. Cook, in September, 1909, announced that he had reached the North Pole his statements were accepted implicitly by many people both in this country and abroad. A great institution of learning at Copenhagen showered honors upon Dr. Cook, and other honors were conferred upon him by municipalities in this country.

Shortly after Dr. Cook's announcement Captain, then Commander, Peary reached civilization and announced that he had reached the pole and declared Dr. Cook's claims to be false and fraudulent.

Thereupon a controversy arose in the lay and scientific world as to whether either Dr. Cook or Capt. Peary had reached the North Pole.

Partisans of each, among them men eminent in science, the law, the ministry, medicine, and Arctic exploration, and laymen argued exhaustively in favor of their particular views, but nothing was done to settle the controversy until the National Geographic Society, of Washington, constituted itself a tribunal for that purpose and invited both Dr. Cook and Capt. Peary to lay before it such proofs as each had of the truth of his claims. But at this time neither explorer had offered to any person or tribunal, so far as can be ascertained, any of his proofs nor any verification of his statements.

Capt. Peary, upon this request, did submit through a Mr. Nichols to the Geographic Society certain papers or documents.

At this time it was of the utmost importance to the world, to the Geographic Society, and to Capt. Peary that the most thorough and exhaustive examination be made of all proofs then or thereafter to be submitted to the Geographic Society, for its verdict, in a large measure, would settle in the minds of the people the question as to which if either of the explorers had reached the pole. A great responsibility was undertaken by the Geographic Society and its committee of investigation when it assumed the duty of arbiter, and



the people of this country had a right to believe the investigation into Capt. Peary's proofs would be conducted in a manner commensurate with the importance of the subject.

The Geographic Society through a committee of three made some examination of the proofs submitted by Capt. Peary and reported its conclusions to the board of management of the society; which conclusions were that Capt. Peary reached the North Pole April 6, 1909.

No statements as to the contents of Capt. Peary's journal and the nature of his observations nor of the kind or character of his instruments or apparatus or any of the scientific results of his expedition were given to the public; and it was said that the subcommittee of the Geographic Society was made up of friends and partisans of Capt. Peary and that his case had been heard "in the house of his friends," with the result that the report of the committee in no way tended to satisfy the popular mind and to allay the controversy that was raging.

With matters in this shape a bill was introduced into both branches of Congress proposing to reward Capt. Peary for his having reached the pole by placing him on the retired list of the Navy with the rank of a rear admiral of the line. One of these bills was referred to the House Committee on Naval Affairs.

With the controversy still acute and in no way settled by the action of the Geographic Society certain members of the Committee on Naval Affairs felt it would be improper and indefensible for that committee to take favorable action on such a bill until it had been more clearly demonstrated that Capt. Peary had reached the pole. For the reason that favorable action by the Naval Committee if approved by the House and its recommendation enacted into law conferring such signal honor upon Capt. Peary would be taken in this country as an official determination of the mooted question as to whether or not Capt. Peary had reached the pole; and before such action should be taken it was deemed necessary that such examination of Capt. Peary and his proofs should be made as the circumstances would permit.

Accordingly a subcommittee of the Committee on Naval Affairs called before it such members of the subcommittee of the Geographic Society that had passed upon Capt. Peary's proofs as were to be found in Washington at that time. This subcommittee consisted of Mr. Henry Gannett, Rear Admiral C. M. Chester, United States Navy, retired, and Mr. O. H. Tittmann. Of these Messrs. Tittmann and Gannett appeared before the committee. The attendance of Admiral Chester, he being abroad at that time, could not be had.

It should be mentioned here that this subcommittee when reporting to the Geographic Society the result of its examinations of Capt. Peary's proofs stated: "These have been carefully examined by your subcommittee."

The following quotations from the testimony of Mr. Tittmann show with what care, or rather lack of care, this committee examined Capt. Peary's proofs.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you satisfied Peary reached the North Pole?

Mr. TITTMANN. Surely.

The CHAIRMAN. Give us your reasons for it; take as long as you please and do it in any way you please.

Mr. TITTMANN. Perhaps you will first allow me, then, to speak of the official records that I have in regard to the matter. When Mr. Peary returned from the Arctic, he sent us the volumes of the tidal observations that he had made, and that was comply-

ing with his orders and instructions; but as the principal interest in the tidal observations was largely the knowledge of the hydrography of the Arctic, Mr. Peary also forwarded to us a line of soundings which he had made, extending from Cape Columbia, where tidal observations were made, to within about 5 miles of the pole. So he forwarded those to me officially and that is the official record we have of his having been at the North Pole. Now, I understand, Mr. Chairman, that you want me to speak of my views—my personal views?

The CHAIRMAN. In your own way, tell us what method you employed that assisted you to reach the conclusion you did reach.

Mr. TITTMANN. I think I have already stated that the line of soundings which Mr. Peary furnished us showed us that he had been within 5 miles of the pole; but besides that I, of course, had knowledge, which was afterwards verified, that Mr. Peary's expedition differed from all previous expeditions in this, that when he got within striking distance of the pole—that is, within about 140 miles of the pole—he had with him a large party of men and Capt. Bartlett; that up to that time he had kept himself in absolute reserve, allowing the hard work—the pioneer work—to be done by a younger man and a stronger man, and when he reached, as I say, a point which I considered within striking distance, his position was so different from any previous explorer who had ever gone—usually when they get to—well, nobody had been so far before—anyhow, when the people did get there they were single or exhausted or minus provisions, but Peary got within 140 miles of the pole and had with him his sleds in perfect condition, his dogs in perfect condition, himself in perfect condition, plenty of provisions, and it was a holiday jaunt to go there, unless some accident happened, like a great rift which he was not able to pass; so it would have been absurd if he had not gone there. His evidence of having been as far as that, of course, need not be touched upon, because everybody knows that Bartlett and those men were with him.

Mr. DAWSON. What official evidence is there of the fact you have just stated—that this party, consisting of Peary, Bartlett, and the others, reached that point—that is, within striking distance of the pole? Is there any official record?

Mr. TITTMANN. I have no official evidence of that except, as I said, the line of soundings under Peary's signature, his official report that he made; that is strictly official.

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Mr. GREGG. Did you see the book of original entry in which he made the record of these soundings?

Mr. TITTMANN. No; I did not.

Mr. GREGG. You know what I mean, I suppose, the book in which they were entered from time to time as he moved along; a sort of a daybook?

Mr. TITTMANN. I didn't see that.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. Tittmann, you saw something which he finished and sent in to your office?

Mr. TITTMANN. Yes, sir; sent in to our office under his signature.

Mr. GREGG. Have you ever, in any capacity, seen the books of original entries that I have described?

Mr. TITTMANN. No, sir; I have not.

Mr. ROBERTS. You say he reached a certain point before he separated himself from his crew. Now, I intended to ask you to take up the narrative from that point.

The CHAIRMAN. Tell us all of the facts which, in your judgment, warranted the committee that examined him in reaching the conclusion it did reach.

Mr. TITTMANN. Well, now, as to the committee. When all this happened I was in Europe; when I came back I found I had been appointed on a committee of the National Geographic Society. That was not an official matter though, and I was very busy and went only to the last meeting of that committee, and at that meeting Capt. Peary showed me the actual observations—the astronomical observations that he made when he was at the pole. One of the observations of the sun was made within about 3 miles of the pole. He then continued in the same direction—my figures now are not, perhaps, quite accurate, because I do not remember the details very well—I think he went about 10 miles beyond the pole, and he was getting at a lower latitude again; he went then what we might call going to the eastward; if you had a map before you you would see what I mean; he went to the eastward and there made some more astronomical observations. He showed me the actual papers on which he did this, and I asked him to explain it to me, so that I looked at his astronomical observations, saw the form in which they were kept and his reductions, and felt perfectly satisfied, as did other members of the committee who had an opportunity to go over the details that I did not have, because I was very much occupied with other matters.

Mr. GREGG. Those that he showed you, then, were they the original entries made at the time?

Mr. TITTMANN. Yes; made at the time, on loose slips of paper.

Mr. GREGG. What did that paper show?

Mr. TITTMANN. It showed the elevation of the sun.

Mr. GREGG. I mean, did you examine the paper to see whether it was new paper or old paper? Did it show evidence of having been used, or was it likely made up on a piece of new, fresh paper?

Mr. TITTMANN. Why, I did not go into that; I could not go into that; I could not say whether it was watermarked or not.

This member of the committee says he did not have as much opportunity to go over the details as the other members of the committee, "because he was very much occupied with other matters." When asked for certain information by the chairman, Mr. Tittmann refers him to Mr. Gannett and hurries away to appear before another committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Professor, for myself, I could not comprehend how anybody would be so untruthful as to say that he reached the North Pole if he did not; but at the same time I wish you would state in some way the observations that were made by Peary. You see I do not know how they were made; I know nothing at all of astronomy, but I would like it to appear in the record the sort of an observation he made, the instruments with which he made it, how he made it, and what it showed, so that any scientific man may know, by looking at that observation, how you reached your conclusion, and how it enabled you to reach your conclusion.

Mr. TITTMANN. I think Mr. Gannett could give you all of that, as you have him here. I am really due before the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Gannett, the next member of the committee examined, told the members of the Naval Committee, in the following language, what examination was made of Capt. Peary's records and instruments.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you be kind enough to detail to us the methods which were employed by this committee in making an examination of the reports of Commander Peary of his expedition?

Mr. GANNETT. You mean what actually took place at the actual meetings with him?

Mr. ROBERTS. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Tell us, in the plainest language, what you saw and learned of the discovery, the reports you saw, the conclusions you reached, and the reasons for your conclusions.

Mr. GANNETT. Mr. Peary came from his home near Portland, Me., and brought his records in a gripsack and his instruments in a trunk. First he met the committee at the office of the Geographic Society, and we appointed a meeting at the house of Admiral Chester, who was a member of this committee. We simply sat down with him and read his journal from his original records; he had an original record made in a little book, a notebook, you know, at that time, and it had all the earmarks of being the original. He read the journal over two or three days before Bartlett left him; we all read it together; we included in the reading two or three days which Bartlett was with him, and from that time on to the pole and all of the way back to Cape Columbia. We also had his astronomical observations recomputed, examined them, not recomputed, for he had already computed them on these sheets. He had one sheet for a set of observations, and Admiral Chester recomputed them; I do not know whether Mr. Tittmann did or not, I do not remember; we had his line of soundings; the tidal observations I never saw.

The CHAIRMAN. Will you please begin with your first official association with this examination of this report and tell us, in your own way, what you observed, and your conclusion, and your reasons for it?

Mr. GANNETT. Well, I have just specified what our committee received from Peary and how it was examined. The result is set forth in the report which this committee made to the board of the Geographic Society. Now, here is a memorandum which includes everything which the society, as a society, through its board of management and its committee, had to do with the Cook business, or tried to do with the Cook business, but never got anywhere, and with the Peary business, including the report of the subcommittee on the Peary records and the action of the board of management. Now, does the committee want to have this matter put in its notes?

Mr. ROBERTS. I think we ought to have that in.

At a meeting on October 1 the board of managers stated that the National Geographic Society could accept the personal statements of neither Commander Peary nor Dr. Cook that the pole had been reached without investigation by its committee on research or by a scientific body acceptable to it.

At the same meeting Commander Peary and Dr. Cook were urged speedily to submit their observations to a competent scientific commission in the United States.

At a later meeting, October 11, the board joined in a request from the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and the American Geographical Society to President Ira Remsen that he, as the president of the National Academy of Sciences, appoint a commission to pass upon the records of Commander Peary and Dr. Cook. This plan for an early examination failed, as Dr. Remsen stated that he would not be able to appoint said commission unless authorized by his council, which meets late in November, and unless also requested to do so by both Commander Peary and Dr. Cook.

Commander Peary was willing to abide by such a commission, but Dr. Cook stated that his observations would go first to the University of Copenhagen. In view of the fact that Commander Peary had been waiting since his return, in September, to submit his records to a scientific commission in the United States, the National Geographic Society believed it should receive his papers without further delay, in order that his claim of having reached the pole might be passed upon without further delay.

The society was ready to make a similar examination of Dr. Cook's original observations and field notes, but as he promised to send them to the University of Copenhagen and the society would not have an opportunity of seeing them for probably some months, it did not seem fair to defer action on Commander Peary's observations until Dr. Cook's papers were received by the society.

At a meeting of the board of managers of the National Geographic Society, Wednesday morning, October 20, the records and observations and proof of Commander Robert E. Peary that he reached the pole April 6, 1909, were submitted to the society.

The records and observations were immediately referred to the committee on research, with the direction that the chairman appoint a subcommittee of experts, of which he shall be a member, to examine said records and report on them to the board. Mr. Henry Gannett, chairman of the committee on research, immediately appointed as the other members of the committee Rear Admiral Colby M. Chester, United States Navy, and O. H. Tittmann, Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey.

Mr. Henry Gannett, chairman of the committee which will report on Commander Peary's observations, has been chief geographer of the United States Geological Survey since 1882; he is the author of Manual of Topographic Surveying, Statistical Atlases of the Tenth and Eleventh Censuses, Dictionary of Altitudes, Magnetic Declination in the United States, Stanford's Compendium of Geography, and of many Government reports. Mr. Gannett is vice president of the National Geographic Society, and was one of the founders of the society in 1888.

Rear Admiral Colby M. Chester, United States Navy, was graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1863. He has held practically every important command under the Navy Department, including Superintendent of the United States Naval Observatory, commander in chief Atlantic Squadron, Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy, Chief of Hydrographic Division, United States Navy. Admiral Chester has been known for many years as one of the best and most particular navigators in the service.

O. H. Tittmann has been Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey since 1900. He is the member for the United States of the Alaska Boundary Commission, and was one of the founders of the National Geographic Society.

The board of managers of the National Geographic Society, at a meeting held at Hubbard Memorial Hall, November 4, 1909, received the following report:

"The subcommittee to which was referred the task of examining the records of Commander Peary in evidence of his having reached the North Pole beg to report that they have completed their task.

"Commander Peary has submitted to this subcommittee his original journal and records of observations, together with all his instruments and apparatus and certain of the most important of the scientific results of his expedition. These have been carefully examined by your subcommittee, and they are unanimously of the opinion that Commander Peary reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909.

"They also feel warranted in stating that the organization, planning, and management of the expedition, its complete success, and its scientific results reflect the greatest credit on the ability of Commander Robert E. Peary and render him worthy of the highest honors that the National Geographic Society can bestow upon him.

"HENRY GANNETT.  
"C. M. CHESTER.  
"O. H. TITTMANN."

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Mr. BUTLER. The committee asked Prof. Gannett to state to the committee the results of his examination of the records made by Peary, and at the same time to give his reasons for his belief in the accuracy of the reports made by Commander Peary.

Mr. GANNETT. Well, as I understood the question, you wish to have the journal and the observations made by Mr. Peary brought forth in this committee?

The CHAIRMAN. No.

Mr. MACON. I want that brought in; this Congress belongs to the country, and whatever we do as its Representatives ought to be done in the open and not in secret. If we are doing anything to be kept back, I propose to make it public myself. So far as I am concerned, we are not going to deal with secrets in anything. We are charged here as the Representatives of the people.

Mr. BATES. I understand there is a very good reason for that. Do you care to state why that record should be kept from the public?

The CHAIRMAN. Do you care to state what the reason is?

Mr. GANNETT. I do not know that I should like to. I would rather Peary would state his reasons himself.

Mr. ROBERTS. Now, let me ask a question: Do I understand the papers or records in issue now are copies of Mr. Peary's original journal?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBERTS. And what other—

Mr. GANNETT. Copies of his observations.

Mr. ROBERTS. Just what is included in the term "observations," in a general way?

Mr. GANNETT. The altitude of the sun and latitude.

Mr. ROBERTS. Do I understand that Mr. Peary objects to his observations as to latitude, and the position of the sun—objects to that being made public, or is it simply the journal of his trip that he objects to, or both?

Mr. GANNETT. Both.

Mr. ROBERTS. In view of the statement we have just listened to, I would like to ask Prof. Gannett when Mr. Peary placed the injunction of secrecy on those papers?

Mr. GANNETT. When he gave them to me two or three days ago.

The CHAIRMAN. On what papers did he place the injunction of secrecy?

Mr. ROBERTS. His journal and astronomical observations. If I may, I would like to ask Prof. Gannett a question or two. Is the committee to understand that the interview had between the geographic committee and Mr. Peary at Admiral Chester's house was the first opportunity and the first information that your committee acquired in their examination of the Peary records?

Mr. GANNETT. No; the story is very nearly as it has already been stated by Mr. Alexander. Peary originally sent down a Mr. Nichols with certain papers which brought the record up to the time that Bartlett left him; further, he had a statement in the handwriting of the various men, McMillan, Marvin, and Bartlett, giving the results of their latitude observations, and carried it up, and also his soundings.

Mr. ROBERTS. How did Mr. Nichols happen to come before your committee? Had you asked Mr. Peary to submit his data and proofs?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. You had formally done that as a committee?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes; it was done by the society, not our committee; it was a formal invitation to submit his proofs; in reply he sent Mr. Nichols with the papers.

Mr. ROBERTS. And the information you sought?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Was anything said at that time about additional information being furnished you?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes; it was intimated to him we would require further information. He, indeed, expected to furnish it, but he was not able to leave his home at that time in order to attend the committee.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did the committee do anything at all on the information they had, or did they hold the matter in abeyance?

Mr. GANNETT. They looked over the matter and sent it back.

The CHAIRMAN. What additional information did you ask for?

Mr. GANNETT. Asked for just what we got; we wanted his own journal and his own observations.

Mr. GREGG. The journal and observations he made after he had left the party?

Mr. GANNETT. After Bartlett had left him; that was particularly what we wanted; but we had the whole thing. As to the matter of the instruments, they started with Peary in a trunk, which was checked, but they did not come here as fast as Peary did; he got here in the morning and his trunk did not get here until evening, and we examined the contents of it, examined the instruments down at the station that evening without moving the trunk.

Mr. DAWSON. At what point did Commander Peary leave the balance of his party?

Mr. GANNETT. At a point a little short of 88 degrees latitude.

Mr. DAWSON. How far was that from the pole, in miles?

Mr. GANNETT. One hundred and thirty-three miles, I think, sir.

Mr. DAWSON. How long was he absent from the party until he rejoined it?

Mr. GANNETT. After Bartlett left there was no rejoining; Mr. Bartlett went back to Cape Columbia; they separated on the 1st of April, I think it was, and on the 6th he arrived at the pole; that would be six days.

Mr. DAWSON. You said there was submitted to your committee observations taken up to the point when Bartlett turned back. How many days did the observations cover while Peary was alone, beyond that point?

Mr. GANNETT. How many days?

Mr. DAWSON. Yes, sir; how many days' observations were there, do you recall?

Mr. GANNETT. No. Peary took only one set of observations after Bartlett left him until he reached the pole, then at the pole he took a number of sets.

Mr. DAWSON. What I want to get at is how many days after he left Bartlett before he returned to his party, from the point where he covered the observations himself?

The CHAIRMAN. Where he met other people?

Mr. ROBERTS. Where he met his party again.

Mr. GANNETT. He did not meet his party at all; one after another turned back to Cape Columbia.

Mr. ROBERTS. He went back to the base of supplies by himself?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Now, how many days from the time he left Bartlett and went to the pole before he rejoined the party at the base of supplies? That is what we are getting at.

Mr. GANNETT. I do not recall it now, I have figured on that a good deal; I do not remember how many days.

Mr. GROSVENOR. He was six days going to the pole.

Mr. ROBERTS. How many days going back from the pole to Cape Columbia?

Mr. GROSVENOR. I think 16 days; he was 52 going and 16 days going back.

The CHAIRMAN. What distance did he cover in that time?

Mr. GROSVENOR. About 400 miles.

Mr. ROBERTS. In the 16 days?

Mr. GROSVENOR. I think so. I could give it to you; I have that information in my office; if you want it I can send it to you; I think 16; I worked it out.

Mr. ROBERTS. I should judge, from what you say, that Mr. Peary left Bartlett, left his party, at just about the point where the last sounding was made by Bartlett, 87-15. According to the report, Bartlett made his last sounding at 87-15, and got 1,260 fathoms of water.

Mr. GANNETT. Bartlett continued a little beyond that point, but no other sounding was made.

Mr. ROBERTS. There was one other sounding; Peary made a sounding right close to the pole, 89-55. Now, did Peary have his artificial horizon when he exhibited it to your committee?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBERTS. And it seemed to be a proper one?

Mr. GANNETT. Oh, yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. And adequate for the purpose?

Mr. GANNETT. There was a slight modification made in it; it was not possible to get the sun at very low angles.

Mr. ROBERTS. There was no question in your mind as to its being a proper artificial horizon for use in the Arctic regions and giving the best of results?

Mr. GANNETT. Oh, certainly not.

Mr. ROBERTS. Was anyone, other than Mr. Nichols and Mr. Peary, before your committee giving information on this?

Mr. GANNETT. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. In other words, your committee did not call any of the other members of the party to verify any of the statements made by Mr. Peary?

Mr. GANNETT. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. When your report was submitted to the Geographic Society, in what way was it presented; to whom in the society?

Mr. GANNETT. To the board of managers.

Mr. ROBERTS. They, then, took some action on it?

Mr. GANNETT. They accepted it.

Mr. ROBERTS. Was any question whatever raised as to its acceptance? Did anybody question the findings or ask for information?

Mr. GANNETT. Not in the slightest; the vote was unanimous in favor of the acceptance.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did you express any opinion as to whether Peary did or did not reach the pole before you were on that committee?

Mr. GANNETT. Why, I do not remember whether I expressed any opinion.

Mr. ROBERTS. The reason I asked the question is that you know, of course, that there is an impression over the country that Mr. Peary appeared in the house of his friends, so to speak; that the committee appointed to examine this data were prejudiced in his favor, and the statement has been made to our committee that certain members of that committee were--well, I won't say hostile to Mr. Peary, but rather skeptical, and were convinced by his statements against their state of unbelief, and that is the reason I asked you the question, whether you had expressed an opinion.

Mr. GANNETT. The purpose of that committee as regards Commander Peary was, according to my understanding, like this: I think it is fair to say that I was a friend of his, but I do not think I had met him a dozen times in my life; I knew him, had an acquaintanceship with him, and that was all; I think that was the case with Tittmann.

Mr. ROBERTS. That does not just meet the point. You know it is a matter of common knowledge that people take sides one way or another. What I wanted to get at, if you care to express it, was your own state of mind. Did you believe before you saw that proof that Peary reached the pole or was your mind completely blank on it?

Mr. GANNETT. Every one who knows Peary by reputation knows he would not lie; I know him by reputation.

Mr. ROBERTS. A fair inference would be that you believed his statement when it first appeared in the press and before you saw the proofs?

Mr. GANNETT. I certainly did.

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Mr. GREGG. Was there any evidence before your committee as to whether he did or did not mention to any of his party, after he rejoined them, that he had found the pole?

Mr. ROBERTS. Did he tell Bartlett and the rest of them?

Mr. GANNETT. I suppose so.

Mr. GREGG. Was there any evidence before the committee?

Mr. GANNETT. I do not remember any direct evidence.

Mr. GREGG. Did he claim he told Bartlett when he rejoined the party?

Mr. GANNETT. I do not remember whether that question was ever asked or answered.

Mr. GREGG. I have heard it contended that he did not tell anybody until it was claimed Cook had gotten there.

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Mr. ROBERTS. No effort was made by your committee to interrogate Henson to verify in any way any of the statements made by Peary?

Mr. GANNETT. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. Or the time it took him to make his different journeys, the number of miles per day?

Mr. GANNETT. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did Mr. Peary, before your committee, give you any account of the conditions of ice or open water that he found on that dash from the main party to the pole?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes; that he found some thin ice; I do not remember that he found any open leads in that six days' travel.

Mr. ROBERTS. Well, how did he explain to you that with that ice and no open water he got through the ice to make his soundings?

Mr. GANNETT. He found some thin places.

Mr. ROBERTS. He found some thin ice and chopped through? Did he make that sounding going up or returning?

Mr. GANNETT. Returning.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did he tell your committee what his equipment was on that dash?

Mr. GANNETT. Well, he had two sledges.

Mr. ROBERTS. How many dogs?

Mr. GANNETT. I think 36 dogs; it seems to me 36 or 32.

Mr. ROBERTS. How many Eskimos?

Mr. GANNETT. Two Eskimos.

- Mr. ROBERTS. And Henson?  
 Mr. GANNETT. And Henson.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. And himself?  
 Mr. GANNETT. Yes, sir.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. And on his two sleds he carried all his apparatus, food for 4 people and 32 or 36 dogs, for 22 days?  
 Mr. GANNETT. I do not remember how many days; it must have been more than that, because they did not expect to get back so soon.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. What weight will a big sled like that transport—what is the average load?  
 Mr. GANNETT. The average load, including the sled, is about 500 pounds.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. Do you know what his instruments weighed?  
 Mr. GANNETT. They were very light; the sextant was the heaviest instrument that he had; he had besides that a lot of light mountain transits, which he did not use.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. He must have had 40 to 50 pounds in his sounding apparatus.  
 Mr. GANNETT. Yes.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. Because the wire itself weighed something over 20 pounds, the lead 20, and the reel that carried the wire must have made the weight something like 40 or 50 pounds. He carried a camera also, didn't he?  
 Mr. GANNETT. I think he must have; yes.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. Did he show you the picture that Hampton is giving away of the Navy ensign hoisted on the North Pole, projecting so distinctly?  
 Mr. GANNETT. No.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. Do you know anything about that photograph?  
 Mr. GANNETT. No; I do not.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. Let me ask just this question: What were the conditions as to sunlight at the time he is said to have been at the pole? Was it the period when the sun is highest or what they call the midnight sun?  
 Mr. GANNETT. No; it was just after the spring equinox; that comes—the sun gets up as far as the Equator on the 21st of March; now, he was at the North Pole some 15 or 16 days later.  
 Mr. ROBERTS. Then he was there at the time of the year when the sun is ordinarily the highest at the pole?  
 Mr. GANNETT. No; the sun would be the highest at the pole the 21st of June.

From these extracts from the testimony it will be seen that Mr. Gannett, after his careful examination of Capt. Peary's proofs and records, did not know how many days it took Capt. Peary from the time he left Bartlett to reach the pole and return to the *Roosevelt*, that information being supplied by a Mr. Grosvenor. It will be also observed that Mr. Gannett, as a result of his careful examination of Capt. Peary's proofs and records, gives Capt. Peary, in his final dash to the pole, the following equipment: Two sledges, 36 or 32 dogs, 2 Eskimos, and Henson. It will be seen later, from Capt. Peary's testimony, that he had on that final dash 40 dogs, 5 sledges, and a total of 6 men in his party. This discrepancy on so vital a point must seem quite conclusive that the examination of the Geographic Society's committee was anything but careful.

At a certain stage of the examination it appeared that Mr. Gannett had with him copies of the records and observations of Capt. Peary, but declined to submit them to the committee unless they could be kept secret, and upon the failure of Mr. Gannett to present these copies to the committee his examination practically came to an end.

The CHAIRMAN. On November 4, 1909, the subcommittee, of which you were a member, made its report to the National Geographic Society?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. In that report you said that Commander Peary had submitted to the subcommittee his original journals and records of observations?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you copies of the records and observations with you?

Mr. GANNETT. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. In view of the statement made by Representative Alexander, of New York, to this subcommittee this morning, having before it the bill to promote



and retire Commander Peary as a rear admiral, that Commander Peary was ready and entirely willing to submit to the committee all of his original notes, observations, instruments and journals, and other data furnished to the committee of the National Geographic Society, on which it made its report, have you any objection now to submitting these copies to the committee?

MR. GANNETT. No; in view of Mr. Alexander's statement I have not.

MR. ALEXANDER. I do not take the responsibility of saying that what is shown to this committee shall be published to the world; whether he would be willing to have it published to the world or not I do not know. My simple suggestion was that he was perfectly willing to submit to the gentlemen of this committee any and all data, original and otherwise, which he may have, that they might say "We have seen the original data which was submitted to the National Geographic Society," and upon it this committee could make their findings. But whether he would want them, even at this time, published to the world that is a question I did not speak to him about, nor was there any suggestion in our conversation upon which I could base an opinion as to his willingness.

THE CHAIRMAN. I do not see how it can be kept from the public if it goes down here. That you will appreciate.

MR. ALEXANDER. Then I wouldn't want anything submitted here upon my statement this morning. There is time enough; Mr. Peary can make his own statement upon that.

THE CHAIRMAN. I think it would be well enough for us to suspend the examination at this point until we can meet again in two or three days, and will ask Prof. Gannett to come back before us again.

MR. ALEXANDER. My statement was simply to show to the committee his willingness to show to the committee everything that he had. Now, I would suggest that inasmuch as he is entirely willing to come here himself that it might not be a bad plan to have him accompany Prof. Gannett, and then you can ask him all and every question; how many days he was going up after he left Bartlett, how many days he was coming back, anything and everything that this committee wants to ask I assure you it will get a full and frank answer.

MR. DAWSON. He ought to understand that what is taken here will be a matter for public record.

THE CHAIRMAN. The verdict of the National Geographic Society affirming Commander Peary's records and data relative to his attaining the North Pole has been accepted by the geographical societies of London, Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, Brussels, Antwerp, Geneva, Dresden, and St. Petersburg, has it not?

MR. GANNETT. Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN. The verdict of this committee, of which you were a member, has been accepted by the scientific societies in many different places in the world?

MR. GANNETT. Yes, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN. The records of Peary were not submitted to any of these societies? They simply accepted the judgment of the National Geographic Society?

MR. GANNETT. That is the case.

MR. ROBERTS. Do you know of any instance where a national geographic society has made a finding of any scientific fact and that finding has not been accepted by others? In other words, it is a professional courtesy among geographic societies to accept the results of each others' work without question?

MR. GANNETT. We had a case only two or three months ago where Cook was accepted by the University of Copenhagen, but nearly all the geographical societies refused to accept it.

MR. ROBERTS. That was not a geographical society.

MR. GANNETT. I do not think there is any professional courtesy or anything of that sort.

MR. ROBERTS. Do you know where the finding of any society has been repudiated by another except in the Cook instance?

MR. GANNETT. I do not recall any except in the Cook instance.

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EAGLE ISLAND, SOUTH HARPSWELL, ME., October 18, 1909.

SIR: Referring to my telegram, I am sending you by express the tidal records of the Peary Arctic Club's recent north polar expedition.

Owing to the unfortunate death of Prof. Ross G. Marvin, some of the chronometer comparisons, particularly of the Cape Bryant observations, are missing.

These comparisons are undoubtedly among Prof. Marvin's private papers; and if so, will be obtained from his relatives later.

Prof. Donald B. McMillan took many of the observations and is familiar with them all and can come to Washington to see you any time you may consider it advisable.

I am writing him now to communicate with you at once, and to keep you posted as to his address.

I am also sending you profile of soundings from Cape Columbia to within 5 miles of the pole.

If such request is permissible, I will respectfully request that this profile and complete set of soundings be not published at present.

With best regards, I am, very respectfully,

R. E. PEARY, *United States Navy.*

Acting Superintendent F. W. PERKINS,  
*United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.*

MARCH 3, 1910.

I certify that this is a true copy of the original.

[SEAL.]

ANDREW BRAID,  
*Assistant in Charge of Office, Coast and Geodetic Survey.*

Hearings were then suspended while an effort was made to procure the presence of Capt. Peary and his original records. March 7, 1910, a statement was made to the committee on behalf of Capt. Peary in which he declined to present to the committee his original data.

Representative De Alva Alexander presented the following statement to the subcommittee:

"Commander Peary and his friends say that contracts signed months ago with his publishers render it impossible to make his records and scientific data public now. It would not only subject Peary to heavy damages—a loss which he can not meet, having just extricated himself from debt incurred in connection with his various expeditions—but it would be breaking faith with his publishers, which he is unwilling to do under any circumstances."

The committee thereupon decided to leave further action upon the bill under consideration for the reward of Capt. Peary open until such time as Capt. Peary felt he could come before the committee and submit his data.

Up to this point the failure of Capt. Peary to receive recognition through that committee was due wholly to the veil of secrecy which he, up to that time, had thrown about his proofs and records, coupled with the lack of conviction resulting from the perfunctory and hasty examination made of these records by the committee of the National Geographic Society.

On January 7, 1911, Capt. Peary came before the committee and submitted to the committee such data and records as it requested from him. In his statement (p. 24) he fixes the size of the party and its equipment that he had on his final dash to the pole. He told the committee of the reports made to him by those in charge of the supporting parties.

MR. ROBERTS. I would like to ask if the supporting parties kept records of their return trips?

Capt. PEARY. They kept records; yes, sir.

MR. ROBERTS. And turned them over to you?

Capt. PEARY. I have Bartlett's report. I think I have McMillan's and Barup's reports, but I will not be sure. I can give you the time of each supporting party, if you care for it, on the return, without going into details.

MR. ROBERTS. How did you get that information?

Capt. PEARY. What information?

MR. ROBERTS. As to their time and so on, and the incidents of their return.

Capt. PEARY. After my return I had Bartlett make me a report of his own trip, and I recall that I have a brief report from Barup and one from McMillan. Barup, on his return to Columbia, had instructions to go west along this coast [indicating on map] just in the same way that Marvin, when he came back, was to come up this coast [indicating on map] so that I should be protected along the entire extent of the north coast in event of meeting conditions such as I met in the previous expedition when I was driven off here [indicating on map].

Mr. ROBERTS. What I was inquiring about particularly was whether each supporting party had kept a diary or record or journal?

Capt. PEARY. I have a report from Bartlett, and I think I have McMillan's report.

Mr. ROBERTS. But those reports were made up after they returned to the ship?

Capt. PEARY. They were given to me then. They probably had rough notes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Do you know whether or not they were made from day to day as they moved along the backward journey?

Capt. PEARY. I assume that they made entries in the journal and then they gave me a transcript of their journal or report. I feel quite sure they did that.

Mr. ROBERTS. Have you any objection to allowing us to look at them?

Capt. PEARY. Not the slightest.

Mr. ENGLEBRIGHT. Have you the report here from Mr. Bartlett?

Capt. PEARY. I have not the report. I have Bartlett's memorandum given to me.

Mr. BATES. Have you his memorandum?

Capt. PEARY. Yes, sir.

Mr. ROBERTS. Is this the original?

Capt. PEARY. Here [exhibiting] is a certificate given me by Bartlett at that time:

ARCTIC OCEAN, April 1, 1909.

Have to-day personally determined our latitude to be by sextant observation  $87^{\circ} 46' 49''$  north. I return from here in command of the fourth supporting party. I leave Commander Peary with 5 men, 5 sledges, with full loads, and 40 picked dogs. Men and dogs are in good condition. The going fair. The weather good. At the same average as our last eight marches, Commander Peary should reach the pole in eight days.

ROBERT A. BARTLETT,  
*Master Steamer Roosevelt.*

Capt. Peary gave the committee his recollection of the incidents of the examination of his records by the committee of the Geographic Society at some length, which, while not so clear as the statement of Mr. Gannett, do not differ in any material particular from those statements, both showing beyond question that the examination was anything but thorough and that no attempt was made to corroborate any of Capt. Peary's statements or to apply any process of reasoning or deduction or to check up his records to see if one tallied with the other.

A perusal of Capt. Peary's testimony shows his recollection of the events of that day to have been delightfully vague and uncertain. The occasion was a most momentous one in his career, for the report of this committee was to settle in the public mind the mooted question of his having attained the pole, and the fact that the incidents of that day made no sharper impression on his mind than is shown by his testimony is very conclusive evidence that the examination of his records was anything but minute, careful, or rigorous.

Mr. ROBERTS. Now, there is one point I forgot when I was asking some questions before. I would like to go into the examination of your records made by the Geographic Society committee, if you have no objection? I would like to have from you just what was said and done.

Let me premise that by asking you this question: Did you ask, directly or indirectly, the Geographical Society to pass upon your record; in other words, was the initiative taken by you to get some reports on the records of your trip?

Capt. PEARY. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. It came from other parties; you were invited by the Geographic Society to present your records?

Capt. PEARY. I was.

Mr. ROBERTS. I understand you first sent them through a Mr. Nichols, a statement of some sort; sent it from Portland or somewhere in Maine. Is that the fact?

Capt. PEARY. I sent them papers; yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Do you object to telling us what those papers were?

Capt. PEARY. Well, I will suggest as to that that the members of that subcommittee who had those papers—and it is probably on their records—could give that information with absolute accuracy. I don't know that I have a memorandum of what those papers were.

Mr. ROBERTS. I would say in reply to that that we sought those papers from that committee last spring, and they declined to give them to us on the ground that they were under a certain injunction as to secrecy and could not give them out. That is why I asked you about them.

Capt. PEARY. I would prefer that that question would be taken up with the subcommittee—

Mr. ROBERTS. I am not asking you as to the subcommittee, but whether you sent them.

Capt. PEARY (continuing). As to their record, the record of what was sent to them, and what their examination was.

Mr. ROBERTS. Have you any record of what you sent by Mr. Nichols?

Capt. PEARY. I can not say whether I have or not; I will look and see.

Mr. ROBERTS. You knew at that time, of course, that there was a question looming up in the public mind as to the truth of the claims made by Dr. Cook, and also that there was some question in the public mind as to whether you had obtained the pole?

Capt. PEARY. The controversy was on.

Mr. ROBERTS. You knew a controversy was on at the time you were asked to submit your proofs to the Geographic Society?

Capt. PEARY. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. In reply to that request of the Geographic Society you sent them something by Mr. Nichols?

Capt. PEARY. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. And you do not wish to tell us now what it was?

Capt. PEARY. I could not tell you, that I know of, now.

Mr. ROBERTS. And you did not keep any copy of it?

Capt. PEARY. And I would prefer, as I said, that the question as to what was said to the committee and what action they took would be put to the committee.

Mr. ROBERTS. As long as you have not copies of it and, as I understand it, you do not want to trust your memory to tell us just what you sent, we will go on a step. Did the Geographic Society's committee act upon that information you sent by Mr. Nichols at that time?

Capt. PEARY. How far they acted I can not tell you offhand.

Mr. ROBERTS. What did you next hear from that committee, after sending them those documents or that information or whatever it was that you did send?

Capt. PEARY. I can not say that I heard from the committee, except a request to come on to that committee.

Mr. ROBERTS. That is, that you come on, that was the request?

Capt. PEARY. That I come on and meet the committee.

Mr. ROBERTS. How did you get that request?

Capt. PEARY. I can hardly say whether by wire or letter, and I do not recall from whom the request came.

Mr. ROBERTS. Was there anything in that request to come down to give you the idea that what you had already sent was not sufficient to satisfy them?

Capt. PEARY. Not that I recall; no.

Mr. ROBERTS. I do not know that it is really pertinent to the thought, but I will ask you the question and you can answer it or not: What did you think, after having sent down a statement to the committee, when they requested you to come and bring your originals?

Capt. PEARY. I thought when I sent my material to the committee that I would come before the committee later with my instruments and my notebooks.

Mr. ROBERTS. That is, then, you did not expect that the data that you sent by Mr. Nichols would be sufficient—

Capt. PEARY. Because it was not all of my records.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did it purport to be a part of the record?

Capt. PEARY. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. It purported to be only a part, and put them on notice—

Capt. PEARY. That I was ready to appear personally before them.

Mr. ROBERTS. There was a statement of that sort contained in it, was there?

Capt. PEARY. That would be my recollection. I know the idea was that I was ready to appear before them.

Mr. ROBERTS. You got a request or an invitation to come down. Do you recollect how that was worded; what they wanted you to do?

Capt. PEARY. I do not, but probably I have the communication, whether a telegram or a letter.

Mr. ROBERTS. In response to that you came down?

Capt. PEARY. I did.

Mr. ROBERTS. And what did you bring with you?

Capt. PEARY. I brought with me my instruments and the material that I have here to-day.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did you bring any more than you have shown the committee thus far?

Capt. PEARY. I brought all of my photographs, or nearly all of them, and, I think, my negatives. I am not sure of that.

Mr. ROBERTS. What time did you reach the city, Mr. Peary?

Capt. PEARY. I could not say.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did you get here in the morning?

E Capt. PEARY. I came from Boston, I should say, on the Congressional Limited, but what time I got in I could not say.

Mr. ROBERTS. If you had luck, and did not get hung up on the river, you would get here the next morning?

Capt. PEARY. Yes; I got here sometime the next day.

Mr. ROBERTS. What did you do when you arrived in the city; where did you go?

Capt. PEARY. I do not recall what my movements were.

Mr. ROBERTS. Perhaps I will ask some leading questions, as the lawyers say, and suggest in my question the answer. You went to the Geographic Society's rooms sometime in the forenoon?

Capt. PEARY. I do not remember when I went there. The members of the board can tell.

Mr. ROBERTS. It was that same day you got in?

Capt. PEARY. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. You went to the Geographic Society's rooms?

Capt. PEARY. No; I think not. The Geographic Society's rooms?

Mr. ROBERTS. Yes; on Sixteenth Street.

Capt. PEARY. That I can not say.

Mr. ROBERTS. Well, let me ask this question: Where did you meet the committee that had been appointed to investigate?

Capt. PEARY. The meeting of the committee was at Admiral Chester's house.

Mr. ROBERTS. No; where did you meet them? I am not asking the place of the meeting of the committee, but where did you meet the committee, or any of its members?

Capt. PEARY. There, as I recall it. The members of that committee can tell you.

Mr. ROBERTS. I would like to have the best recollection you have about when you first saw any of the members of the committee, and where.

Capt. PEARY. That can be put down. I will endeavor to answer that——

Mr. ROBERTS. No; I want to get your recollection now.

Capt. PEARY. I do not recall about that, about my meeting any members of the committee.

Mr. ROBERTS. You would not want to say that you did not meet two of the members of the committee at the room of the Geographical Society, would you?

Capt. PEARY. I would not want to say I did or did not.

Mr. ROBERTS. Well, we will go a step further. You did finally go to the house of Admiral Chester?

Capt. PEARY. I went to the house of Admiral Chester.

Mr. ROBERTS. And three members of that subcommittee were there with you?

Capt. PEARY. They were; yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Or arrived soon after you arrived?

Capt. PEARY. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. You are not certain just how you all got there?

Capt. PEARY. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. Can you give us anything definite as to the time of day you got there?

Capt. PEARY. No; I could not.

Mr. ROBERTS. Before lunch or after?

Capt. PEARY. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. You could not tell that?

Capt. PEARY. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. Can you recall how long you were there?

Capt. PEARY. Until some time in the evening.

Mr. ROBERTS. What did you do while there with the committee? I want to find out how this examination of the proofs was made. That is what I am trying to get at, Mr. Peary.

Capt. PEARY. There again, as the members of the committee are accessible, I would prefer to have them take that up.

Mr. ROBERTS. No; I want to have your recollection, if you can give it.

Capt. PEARY. I recall that I was there at Admiral Chester's house with the members of the committee, and some others, I think, came in in addition to the members of the

subcommittee; and I remember, too, that I was there until some time in the evening; I could not say how late.

Mr. ROBERTS. Have you exhibited to the subcommittee that original memoranda that you have shown us? Did they read it?

Capt. PEARY. This book?

Mr. ROBERTS. Yes; that you have shown us.

Capt. PEARY. I think that is covered in the hearing of yesterday or the day before.

Mr. ROBERTS. That you exhibited it to that committee?

Capt. PEARY. That I exhibited it to the committee.

Mr. ROBERTS. And they read it?

Capt. PEARY. How much the different members of the committee read I can not say.

Mr. ROBERTS. And you submitted the data of your astronomical observations?

Capt. PEARY. That I had there.

Mr. ROBERTS. You did submit at that time?

Capt. PEARY. That is my impression. I had it there with me, and I presume they saw portions of it, perhaps all of it.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did they verify any of the computations in your presence; that is, figure over again the necessary computations?

Capt. PEARY. The only thing that I can say is that I think Prof. Gannett was making some figures. Whether he carried out the full computations or not I can not say.

Mr. ROBERTS. Do you recall Admiral Chester going over the astronomical computations?

Capt. PEARY. I remember Admiral Chester having a chart showing the projection of the sun.

Mr. ROBERTS. How many hours would you say, as the best estimate you can give, you were there with that committee?

Capt. PEARY. Well, I should say that I was there the greater portion of the day.

Mr. ROBERTS. I don't know that we have it here. Do you recall when it was that you were there? Do you recall the month or the day?

Capt. PEARY. It was some time in October, I should say.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did you bring with you to Admiral Chester's house your instruments?

Capt. PEARY. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. Where were they?

Capt. PEARY. They were at the station.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did the committee see those instruments?

Capt. PEARY. They did.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did they see them? Where did they see them?

Capt. PEARY. At the station.

Mr. ROBERTS. Did you go with them?

Capt. PEARY. I did.

Mr. ROBERTS. Do you recall what time you got to the station?

Capt. PEARY. No, sir; I do not, except it was pretty well along in the evening.

Mr. ROBERTS. It was after dark?

Capt. PEARY. It was after dark.

Mr. ROBERTS. When you got to the station what did you or the committee do with regard to the instruments?

Capt. PEARY. I beg your pardon, what was that?

Mr. ROBERTS. First, how did the instruments come down?

Capt. PEARY. They came in a trunk.

Mr. ROBERTS. Your trunk?

Capt. PEARY. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. After you reached the station and found the trunk, what did you and the committee do with regard to the instruments?

Capt. PEARY. I should say that we opened the trunk there in the station.

Mr. ROBERTS. That is, in the baggage room of the station?

Capt. PEARY. Yes.

Mr. ROBERTS. Were the instruments all taken out?

Capt. PEARY. That I could not say. Members of the committee will probably remember that better than I.

Mr. ROBERTS. Well, you do not have any recollection of whether they took them out and examined them?

Capt. PEARY. Some were taken out, I should say; whether all were taken out I could not say.

Mr. ROBERTS. Was any test of those instruments made by any member of the committee to ascertain whether or not the instruments were accurate?

## 22 RECOGNITION OF ROBERT E. PEARY, THE ARCTIC EXPLORER.

Capt. PEARY. That I could not say. I should imagine that it would not be possible to make tests there.

Mr. ROBERTS. Were those instruments ever in the possession of the committee other than the inspection at the station?

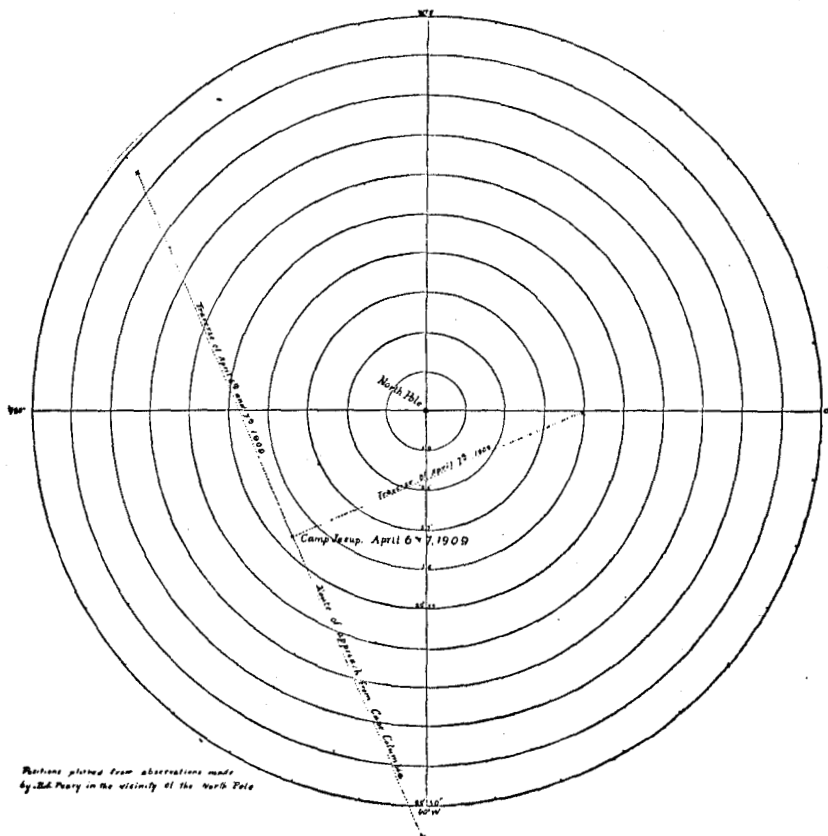
Capt. PEARY. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. ROBERTS. Has this original memorandum you read from ever been left in the hands of the committee?

Capt. PEARY. No.

Mr. ROBERTS. Have they ever had copies of it?

Capt. PEARY. Yes; I think so.



Mr. ROBERTS. When did they get copies?

Capt. PEARY. That I can not say.

Mr. ROBERTS. Before or after they had made a report to the society?

Capt. PEARY. That I could not say.

At the conclusion of Capt. Peary's testimony a diagram was shown the committee on which was marked the points in the vicinity of the pole where Capt. Peary made his astronomical observations. These points were determined by working out these observations and plotting them on the diagram.

TESTIMONY OF MR. HUGH C. MITCHELL.

Mr. ENGLEBRIGHT. Did you make this diagram [indicating]? (See diagram, p. 22.)

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Duvall made it; I verified it.

Mr. ENGLEBRIGHT. Have you had the data of Mr. Peary's observations near the pole?

Mr. MITCHELL. Yes, sir.

Mr. ENGLEBRIGHT. You had the data of the comparison of the chronometers used on that trip?

Mr. MITCHELL. I had.

Mr. ENGLEBRIGHT. Where did you get the last rating?

Mr. MITCHELL. In a letter that was sent by the chronometer makers and raters, Bliss & Co., I think of New York, addressed to R. A. Harris, computer, Coast and Geodetic Survey—sent direct to him.

Mr. ENGLEBRIGHT. How recently has that been received?

Mr. MITCHELL. He has had it in his possession over a month, I should think. I believe the letter is here, and the date shows.

This work was done, according to the testimony of Mr. Hugh C. Mitchell, within the past month and, so far as the committee has been able to ascertain, it is the first and only effort made to verify in a practical way any of Capt. Peary's proofs or records.

Had such a chart been worked out by the committee of the Geographic Society (and there is no reason why it should not have been done, for that committee had before it the same astronomical observations that were before Mr. Mitchell) and had this chart been given to the world by that committee of the Geographic Society, undoubtedly the controversy would have been ended then and there.

As it is, it is somewhat doubtful if its publication at this late day will remove the deep-seated doubts created in the minds of many people by the inadequate examination and report of the Geographic Society, coupled with the reluctance of Mr. Peary in submitting to any tribunal other than the Geographic Society his records and memoranda.

Assuming the astronomical observations upon which this chart is based to have been made by Capt. Peary as he states they were made—and there is nothing in evidence to the contrary—I am forced to the conclusion that Capt. Peary was within a very short distance of the pole; sufficiently near to warrant the claim that he reached the pole.

ERNEST W. ROBERTS.

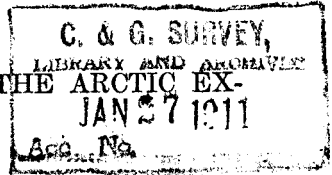




# Private Calendar No. 733.

61ST CONGRESS, { HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT  
3d Session. } No. 1961.

## RECOGNITION OF ROBERT E. PEARY, THE ARCTIC EX- PLORER.



JANUARY 21, 1911.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
that it be printed.

Mr. BATES, from the Committee on Naval Affairs, submitted the  
following

### REPORT.

[To accompany S. 6104.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs having had under consideration bills S. 6104 (Hale), H. R. 21495 (Bates), H. R. 20984 (Butler), H. R. 21431 (Loud), H. R. 19971 (Allen), and H. R. 29511 (Alexander), and H. J. Res. 144 (Moore), all of which bills and joint resolution propose certain recognition of Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, for his Arctic explorations resulting in reaching the North Pole, report the said Senate bill 6104 with recommendation that it do pass with amendments.

Said bill is amended as follows:

Strike out the title and insert: "Providing for the promotion of Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, and tendering to him the thanks of Congress."

Also, in said Senate bill strike out all after the enacting clause and insert as follows:

SECTION 1. That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to place Civil Engineer Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, on the retired list of the Corps of Civil Engineers with the rank of rear admiral, to date from April sixth, nineteen hundred and nine, with the highest retired pay of that grade under existing law.

SEC. 2. That the thanks of Congress be, and the same are hereby, tendered to Robert E. Peary, United States Navy, for his arctic explorations resulting in reaching the North Pole.

Robert E. Peary reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. From a camp which he established at a point estimated by observation at 89° 56' north latitude on said date (slightly over 4 miles from the exact pole), he made two excursions on that and the following day, which carried him close to and beyond the pole.

Your committee have come to the above conclusion after a careful examination and hearing by the subcommittee extending over several days at which Capt. Peary appeared in person, and gave important testimony submitting all his papers, original data, daily journal kept

by him during the journey and notes of astronomical observations and soundings, etc.

Your committee also heard the report of the National Geographic Society, of Washington, the report from the president and one of the board of governors of the Royal Geographical Society, of London, which society through its official computer had made an independent examination of the data and proofs; and also a report from Hugh C. Mitchell and C. R. Duvall, expert computers of astronomical observations from the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States. These men independently of any other person, working on the original data of the observations taken by Peary, stated before your committee that on the above-named dates Peary passed within a little over a mile of the exact pole and stated in conclusion that the march of April 7, 1909, may have carried Peary even within a stone's throw of that point.

These reports of the American and British societies and of Messrs. Mitchell and Duvall of our own Coast and Geodetic Survey are submitted in full in the printed report of the hearings had before your committee. These hearings established the fact that Peary reached the North Pole on the above-named date in pursuance of a well-defined and carefully laid plan which he had been able to formulate as the result of more than 20 years' Arctic experience and which he was able to carry out because of an indefatigable earnestness and singleness of purpose.

As a result of this plan, when he reached out over the Arctic Sea, as had been done by other explorers—Nansen, Cagni, Greely, Lockwood, Markham, and others—and came to a point beyond where they had turned back, and beyond where he himself in former excursions had been obliged to retreat, he was able, by reason of his supporting parties, to go forward with sledges filled with provisions and fresh dogs for locomotion, these very essentials of success having been conserved for his final dash.

Three years before, in 1906, Peary had reached  $87^{\circ} 6'$ , the farthest north ever attained up to that time. He then learned the necessity of more careful preparation, and, returning to the United States, planned a campaign by ship, men, Esquimos, dogs, canned provisions, lighter equipment to the very last detail, which resulted in success.

Peary was an officer of the United States Navy and charged with the specific duty in which he was engaged. President Roosevelt, July 3, 1908, detailed Peary to report to the Superintendent of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and instructed that Peary be ordered to make tidal observations along the Grant Land and Greenland shore of the Polar Sea.

Mr. Peary entered the Navy in 1881 and has served almost thirty years. He is at present a civil engineer with the rank of captain. When leaving for his polar trip, the Acting Secretary of the Navy wrote him that he was granted this leave of absence for Arctic explorations because he is believed to be better equipped than any other person in the country to undertake such work.

You have—

Said the letter from the Navy Department—

the requisite courage, fortitude, and physique; you have had a longer term of service within the Arctic Circle than any other explorer, and you have had large experience in sledge journeying on the land and upon the polar pack; you have demonstrated

your ability to maintain yourself in that latitude for a longer period in health and safety than any other explorer; you have reduced the inconveniences and hardships of the Arctic service to the minimum. The attainment of the pole should be your main object. Nothing short will suffice. Our national pride is involved in the undertaking. This department expects that you will accomplish your purpose and bring further distinction to a service of illustrious traditions.

The President of the United States gave Peary this parting injunction:

I believe in you, Peary, and I believe in your success if it is in the possibility of man.

Going into winter quarters at Cape Sheridan, tidal observations were commenced, and the members of the expedition began the transportation of supplies westward to Cape Columbia. This became a camp and depot of supplies, from which the journey over the Arctic Ocean to the pole was to begin. The winter months of 1909 were occupied in preparing Eskimos, dogs, and other equipments. After careful training the Eskimos and dogs were in the best condition, hard and fit for the work that was before them. The men, Eskimos, and dogs were divided into supporting parties. Each supporting party was independent in the matter of supplies and equipment; they were sent north over the ice at intervals of a day or more each.

In this way the first supporting party sought and found the easiest trail which could readily be found by the succeeding parties coming on.

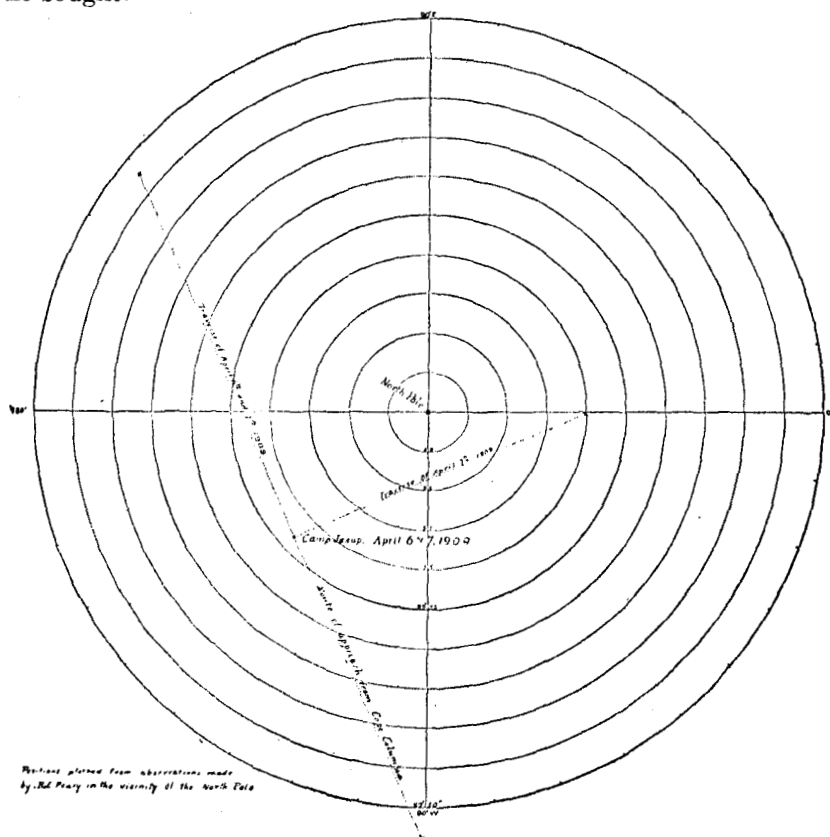
Capt. Bartlett accompanied Peary to latitude  $87^{\circ} 47'$ , or within 133 miles of the pole. At this point they exchanged signed statements as result of observations, and Bartlett turned back with his supporting party, leaving Peary with picked dogs, good sledges, and plenty of provisions, and in fact the very best equipment and supplies for the final journey. In five marches from where Peary and Bartlett parted, Peary reached the long sought for goal. Mr. Mitchell, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, makes a conclusive and careful report on the observations of Marvin, Bartlett, and Peary. He and Mr. Duvall agree that the observations taken by Peary at Camp Jesup were latitude  $89^{\circ} 55' 23''$ , longitude  $137^{\circ}$  west, and that this place, Camp Jesup, is indicated to be 4.6 geographic miles from the North Pole. But this was not his closest approach to the pole. Mr. Mitchell states that the result of observations at 6.40 o'clock on the morning of the 7th, and of Peary's travel immediately after those observations in the direction of the sun an estimated distance of 8 miles, indicate that Peary was at a probable distance of 1.6 miles from the pole.

Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Duvall figured the position of Peary at the pole independently, but based on the same observations and by independent methods. Their calculations agree within a second of latitude.

Mitchell states that from his professional experience it would have been impossible for the data of these observations to have been obtained other than under the circumstances claimed. The observations at the pole were made at different times. He states that in using these observations in connection with each other they, in a measure, prove each other, and that error could be detected had the observations not been made at the points set forth in the data. In other words, the two independent observations taken on the 6th and 7th, with the sun in the same direction, practically agree upon comparison.

On the return of the Peary party to the United States the standard chronometer used by Peary was sent to its makers for rating and

comparison. When this instrument was examined before the expedition started the previous year, it was found to have a predicted daily rate of 0.2 of a second losing. On the return a comparison showed the instrument to have a daily rate of 2.2 seconds gaining. This correction and comparison in chronometer rate showed, according to Mr. Mitchell, that Peary's time was 10 minutes fast on his expedition to the pole and that the sun, instead of being observed on the assumed meridian (70), was observed 10 minutes before it had reached that meridian. One effect of this was in the assumed direction of the sun, it being really  $2\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  east of south when it was assumed to be due south. This error of chronometer carried Peary to the left instead of in a direct line with the pole. This is shown from his observations at Camp Jesup, where two altitudes of the sun, taken 6 hours apart, gave an absolute determination of both the latitude and longitude of that point and showed that the forward line of march was between 4 and 5 geographic miles to the left of the pole. This very error proves the truth of his position and the correctness of his observation, based upon his own chronometer. Had his chronometer been exactly correct, Camp Jesup would have been in direct line with the pole, as he had supposed from his own observations, and the forward march would have brought him exactly over its location. His detour to the right, however, on the following day brought him within 1.6 miles of the exact center, which is substantially the goal he sought.



It is a well-recognized fact that exact results are not attainable as a result of observations. A matter of 1 or 2 miles under favorable circumstances is a fair allowance. Dr. Nathaniel Bowditch, in the *American Practical Navigator*, an official publication of the United States Navy Department, states:

In obtaining results of observations it is impossible to make an exact allowance for error in chronometer and sextant and error of refraction and of observation. No navigator should ever assume that his position is not liable to be in error to some extent, the precise amount depending on various factors, such as the age of the chronometer rate, the quality of the various instruments, the reliability of the observer, and the conditions at the time the sight was taken. Perhaps a fair allowance for this possible error under favorable circumstances will be 2 miles; therefore instead of plotting a position upon the chart and proceeding with absolute confidence in the belief that the ship's position is on the exact point, one may describe, around the point as a center, a circle whose radius is 2 miles (if we accept that as the value of the possible error) and shape the future courses with the knowledge that the ship's position may be anywhere within the circle.

The return journey was made more quickly than the outward journey. There was a trail easily distinguishable and both men and dogs realized that they were returning to land.

Peary covered 27 outward marches (413 miles) in 16 return marches with the pick of Eskimos and dogs all in good condition,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

MacMillan, of the first supporting party, covered 7 outward marches (82 miles) in 4 return marches,  $20\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

Borup, of the second supporting party, covered 12 outward marches (136 miles) in 7 return marches with partially crippled men and poor dogs,  $19\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

Bartlett, of the fourth supporting party, covered 22 outward marches (280 miles) in 13 return marches,  $21\frac{1}{2}$  miles per march.

Bartlett returned from his farthest,  $87^{\circ} 47'$ , in the same number of marches (13) as Peary did from that same point.

Later in the season MacMillan and Borup, returning from Cape Jesup with the same dogs used on the northern trip, covered 275 to 300 miles in 8 marches and on more than one occasion covered over 50 miles in a march.

Shackleton, on his outward journey, made marches of 18 and 20 miles. He returned without dogs, and he and his men, dragging their own sledges, made marches of 20, 26, and 29 miles.

Your committee recognize that the attainment of the North Pole has been the object of the world's famous explorers for centuries past; that Peary, overcoming almost insurmountable obstacles, reached the goal of a life's work, that he was specifically commissioned to do so by his commanders in chief, the President and the Secretary of the Navy.

Discoveries of this kind have always been recognized by the country to whom the explorer belonged. Shackleton, who reached a point within a hundred miles of the South Pole in 1909, was granted £20,000 by the British Government and knighted by the King. William E. Parry, in 1827, reached  $82^{\circ} 45'$  (the record of the farthest north), and was knighted by the King. Sir John Franklin, for explorations of the Arctic coast, was knighted, as were also John Ross in 1835, James Ross in 1844, Robert McClure in 1853, McClintock in 1855, and Nares in 1877.

Peary has at present the rank of captain. Had he remained at home and served as a chief of one of the bureaus at the Navy Depart-

ment he would to-day have the rank of rear admiral. It is proposed in this bill to bestow upon him this rank with the retired pay of that grade; such retired pay, the committee learns from the Navy Department, will be \$300 per year less than the pay he is now receiving from salary and allowances under his present rank.

Peary has already received the following recognition for his discoveries:

The special great gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society, of London.  
 The special great gold medal of the National Geographic Society, of Washington.  
 The special great gold medal of the Philadelphia Geographical Society.  
 The Helen Culver medal of the Chicago Geographical Society.  
 The honorary degree of doctor of laws from Bowdoin College.  
 Honorary member of the New York Chamber of Commerce.  
 Honorary member of the Pennsylvania Society.  
 The Nachtigall gold medal of the Imperial German Geographical Society.  
 The King Humbert gold medal of the Royal Italian Geographical Society.  
 The Hauer medal of the Imperial Austrian Geographical Society.  
 The gold medal of the Hungarian Geographical Society.  
 The gold medal of the Royal Belgian Geographical Society.  
 The gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society of Antwerp.  
 A special trophy from the Royal Scottish Geographical Society—a replica in silver of the ships used by Hudson, Baffin, and Davis.  
 The honorary degree of doctor of laws from the Edinburgh University.  
 Honorary membership in the Manchester Geographical Society.  
 Honorary membership in the Royal Netherlands Geographical Society of Amsterdam.

The President of the United States and the Secretary of the Navy have recommended that fitting recognition by Congress be accorded Peary for this great achievement. The scientific societies of the world accord in pronouncing this the greatest geographical prize of the last three centuries. It is a matter of just pride that this honor has come to the United States. •

Your committee believe that in view of his long distinguished service in the Arctic regions in ascertaining the northern boundaries of Greenland; his soundings and tidal observations; his ascertainment of facts concerning the northern Arctic Ocean; the general information he has obtained by living over 12 years within the Arctic circle; and finally having successfully followed a carefully laid plan resulting in his reaching on April 6, 1909, and bringing back to civilization the conditions existing at the North Pole, that Robert Edwin Peary has performed a most remarkable and wonderful service, that he has attracted the favorable attention of the civilized world; and that therefore the American people, through its Congress, shall render him thanks, and bestow upon him the highest rank of the service which he adorns.